

content is humidified, said hollow fiber membrane module having a bypass channel with a diameter larger than that of the hollow fiber membrane formed on an approximately central portion of the cross-lengthwise direction of said housing along the lengthwise direction of said housing of said hollow fiber membrane module, and with a plurality of outlets placed along the lengthwise direction of the entire length of the bypass channel

said humidification process comprising:

introducing a part of one of said gases to flow in the bypass channel, while subjecting the remaining part of the gas to directly flow outside the hollow fiber membranes;

subsequently subjecting said gas introduced into the bypass channel to flow outside the hollow membrane module from said plurality of outlets placed along the lengthwise direction of the entire length of the bypass channel, to combine said gas having been introduced into the bypass channel with the remaining part of the gas, whereby said one of the gases is spread over the outside said hollow fiber membranes accommodated within said housing, and

carrying out a moisture exchange between said gas flowing outside the hollow fiber membranes and said the gas flowing inside the hollow fiber membranes.

9. (Amended) A humidification process utilizing a hollow fiber membrane module comprising a plurality of water-permeable hollow fiber membranes placed along the lengthwise direction of a housing accommodated within the housing, in which gases each having a different moisture content flow inside and outside said hollow fiber membranes to carry out moisture exchange whereby the dry air having a low moisture

content is humidified, said hollow fiber membrane module having a bypass channel with a diameter larger than that of the hollow fiber membrane formed on an approximately central portion of the cross-lengthwise direction of said housing along the lengthwise direction of said housing of said hollow fiber membrane module and with a plurality of outlets placed along the lengthwise direction of the entire length of the bypass channel, and said housing having a plurality of outlet ports formed in a circumferential direction thereon,

said humidification process comprising:

introducing a whole of one of said gasses into the bypass channel from one end of said bypass channel;

subsequently subjecting said gas introduced into the bypass channel to flow outside the hollow membrane module from said plurality of outlets placed along the lengthwise direction of the entire length of the bypass channel to be spread over the whole of outside said hollow fiber membranes,

discharging said one of gasses spread outside said hollow fiber membranes from said plurality of outlet ports formed in a circumferential direction thereon; and

carrying out a moisture exchange between said gas flowing outside the hollow fiber membranes and the gas flowing inside the hollow fiber membranes.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the above-identified patent application. By this Amendment, claim 8 and 9 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of